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WISDOM IS COMMON SENSE TO AN UNCOMMON DEGREE

# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## YOU MUST WEAR RUBBER GLOVES

### EIGHTEEN STATES CONDUCT JOB SAFETY PROGRAMS

Eighteen states now have Safety and Job Training programs, supervised by twenty-two supervisors, devoting full time to the activity. The post-war construction program and the need for G.I. training have made this program valuable now. Not only is the program helping to raise the skill level of the regular employee, but it also offers a sound basis for training the new employee and the returned veteran who wants to take advantage of the "GI Bill" to become a lineman.

REA safety is based on doing the job correctly. Training the lineman to use the proper work procedure and to make the best possible use of protective equipment promotes efficiency and also assures the safety of the individual.

Staff members of Departments of Education in the various states are experts in the art of  
*(continued on page 4)*

### HAYES AND CLARK NAMED IN INDIANA AND KENTUCKY

Earl L. Hayes has been selected by the Indiana Safety and Job Training Advisory Committee as Safety Supervisor for the State. The Advisory Committee was formed last summer but the program did not get under way due to the lack of a suitable instructor.

Joe A. Clark has been selected as Safety and Job Training Supervisor for Kentucky, effective March 1. Kentucky has been without a supervisor since last summer when L. A. (Slim) Ehmsen, resigned to become Manager of Green River Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., Owensboro, Ky.

### GLOVES FOUND IN TRUCK AFTER FATAL ACCIDENT

A lineman was called out to replace a transformer fuse. The installation was of the old type construction, now obsolete. The fused cut-out was mounted on top of the transformer bushing and turned so as to place the fuse holder very close to the arrester tap. The arrester was mounted with the tap to the inside, further decreasing the clearance between the end of the fuse holder and the tap. The arrester tap was attached directly to the conductor rather than to the transformer lead between bushing and line.

The lineman climbed the pole and belted off below the neutral. He used an 8-foot hot-stick to remove the live line clamp and disconnected the transformer jumper. He then proceeded to replace the fuse with the arrester tap - his right hand was either on the neutral or transformer case.

The lineman fell backwards in his belt and hung head down. The burns were slight, a small burn on outer edge of left hand near little finger, burn on thumb, another on forearm. A small burn was also found in the palm of the right hand near the base of the little finger. A farmer who witnessed the accident summoned aid which arrived eighteen minutes later. Artificial respiration was of no avail.

### EDITOR'S COMMENT

The victim had re-fused this particular transformer several times before. We do not know what method he used but it is quite possible he used his rubber gloves each previous time. *(continued on page 3)*

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for Employees of REA Systems

*David A. Fleming, Editor*

## - EDITORIAL COLUMN -

### THINK THE JOB THROUGH

We hear much about thinking in connection with line work. Thinking and planning the job makes the work go smoothly; gets the job done without delay. It is the basis of developing team work. It is a yardstick for measuring a foreman's ability. A successful foreman must think each job through and plan it beforehand.

Thinking shouldn't stop with the foreman. Each lineman must also be able to plan the job he intends to do on the pole. His safety and that of his pole buddy often depends on his thinking the job through beforehand. In thinking a job through, the proper sequence of doing it is determined and the danger points noted.

Some accidents are attributed to working mechanically or to not using proper work methods and sometimes to poor judgment. These are just different ways of saying "I did not think". If a lineman is thinking about the job at hand, he could not do it mechanically because every move would be calculated. It is only when we don't think that we work mechanically. If proper thought were given first, suitable work methods would always be used, because a lineman is a skilled craftsman. His training and work experience have fitted him to do the job properly. For this same reason he would never use poor judgment if he stopped to think the job through.

### CECIL IS APPOINTED TO KENTUCKY COMMITTEE

Bernard Cecil, line foreman for the Salt River Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., Bardstown, Ky., has been appointed to the Kentucky Safety and Job Training Committee. Mr. Cecil resuscitated a fellow employee rendered unconscious by electrical shock March 27, 1945. The National Safety Council awarded Mr. Cecil the President's Medal for this act.

Rural traffic deaths increased 24% in 1945 according to the National Safety Council. Rural deaths accounted for 60% of the total traffic toll in 1945.

## THE LINEMAN'S MAIL BAG

To The Editor:-

The following will help to prevent electric shock accidents:-

1. Rubber gloves from the ground up on poles carrying energized circuits.
2. Regulation 8' switch sticks.
3. Work in sight of protective grounds on de-energized lines.
4. Think.

The workman will be required to furnish only one of the four -- the last one. To think doesn't cost anything.

We are trying to protect the most valuable thing there is, a human life. We can replace or repair a broken tool but we cannot replace a human life. By working safely we will live to enjoy our lives so much longer than we will if we do our work in the unsafe manner. When we grow to be old men and women we will be proud that we had a part in accident prevention.

Very sincerely,

Roy T. Anderson  
Safety & Job Training Inst.  
North Carolina R. E. A.

To The Editor:

I have read with interest your R. E. A. Lineman for January and February. In the former the article on "Why Did This Lineman Die?" provokes the following comment: It appears that a contributing factor to this accident was that "neither the foreman nor the helper was looking at the lineman at the instant he made contact."

It would appear an excellent practice that when a lineman is climbing a pole carrying energized conductors or equipment the man on the ground should observe his progress carefully, at least until he has attained his work height and fastened his safety belt.

An Electrical Engineer

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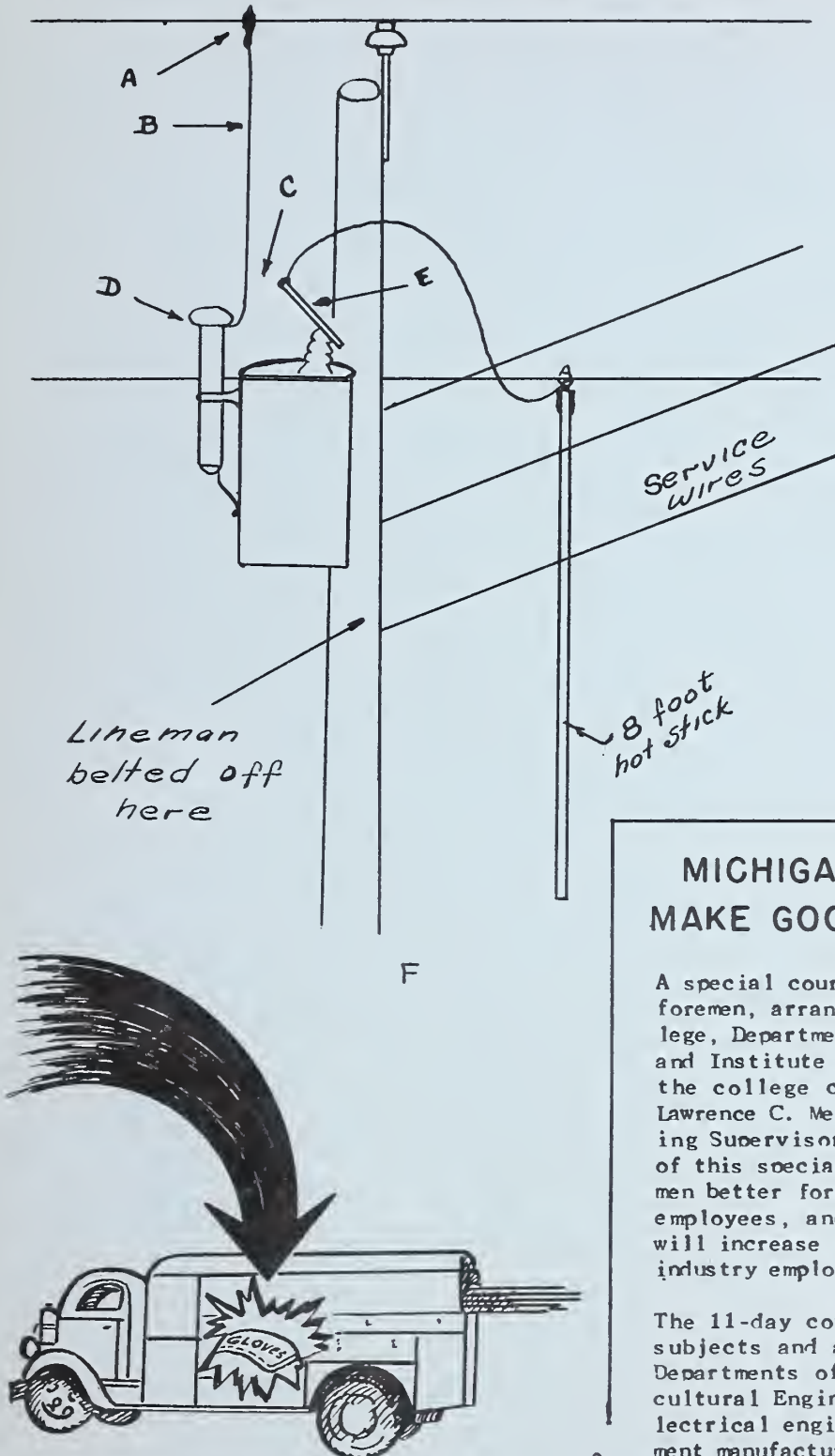


# RUBBER GLOVES ARE MADE TO BE USED

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Whether he forgot to take them this time or left them in the truck on purpose will never be known. We do know that rubber gloves

were designed for just such an occasion as this and would have protected this man had they been on his hands.



## MICHIGAN COURSE HELPS MAKE GOOD FOREMEN BETTER

A special course for rural linemen and line foremen, arranged by the Michigan State College, Department of Agricultural Engineering and Institute of Short Courses, was held on the college campus March 11 to 23, 1946. Lawrence C. Meyer, REA Safety and Job Training Supervisor, states: "The main purpose of this special course is to make good foremen better foremen, to train trainers of new employees, and to supply information that will increase job understanding of electrical industry employees."

The 11-day course covered a wide range of subjects and attracted personnel from the Departments of Vocational Education, Agricultural Engineering, and Forestry, and electrical engineers from three large equipment manufacturers.

## IT'S TIME FOR SPRING HOUSE CLEANING

Now is a good time to clean out your truck and apply a little paint here and there. Of course, you should not neglect this work during the rest of the year, but Spring is especially important because frequent electrical storms soon will cause more emergency work. Stocking an adequate supply of maintenance items and keeping them in orderly arrangement also will be helpful.

## EIGHTEEN STATES

(continued from page 1)

training. They are devoting full time to developing teaching methods because that is their business. To assure the best possible approach to the training of linemen, the REA Safety and Job Training programs are set up under the guidance of a state college, vocational school, or university. The State Supervisor, selected jointly by the Educational sponsor and the REA Advisory Committee, is usually a trade-competent lineman with foreman experience.

To date, program emphasis has been placed on training the ground man through first-class lineman. Later, the program hopes to develop informational material which will offer the first-class lineman a better understanding of the principles of electricity and electrical equipment.

The states now conducting Safety and Job Training programs are:

Alabama	Nebraska
Georgia	North Carolina
Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Oklahoma
Iowa	South Carolina
Kentucky	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Michigan	Virginia
Mississippi	Wisconsin

## PENNA. SYSTEM OFFERS COLD CASH FOR HOT IDEAS

The Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Huntingdon, Pa., is sponsoring a Safety Limerick Contest in its monthly newsletter "Valley News". Last month's first prize of \$5 went to Mrs. M. A. Gilliland of Orbisonia. She finished the verse this way:

A hard-working farmer named Nate  
Is idle now, hard to relate.  
He had know-how and muscle  
And plenty of hustle.  
But carelessness ends in ill fate.

## LINEMAN'S MAIL BAG

(continued from page 2)

To The Editor:-

How often have you heard this statement used? "That was a foolish thing to do." Obviously, quite often. When expressions of that nature are used, the human element in us is at work, and the chances are 8 out of 10 times that unless controlled, we would do the same thing over. The human element predominates in all accidents. Where the employer provides safety equipment, there is still that tendency to get along without its use. Safety education will eventually curb these tendencies and cause the worker to become safety conscious.

The human factor in accidents usually starts by laxity of the foreman in the use of safeguards and the general let down of good housekeeping in both the storeroom and truck. It is true, of course, that to control the mental attitude and shortcomings of individual workers is a difficult job. Shortcomings are often the result of an "I don't give a hoot" attitude. So let's instill in all men the spirit of good housekeeping. As leaders, let's insist on the use of all safeguards all the time, not just part of the time. Let's give adequate instructions. Let's wear a smile. Let's be courteous and friendly. That is Safety Education!

Yours for safe work, always,

Chester A. High, Supervisor  
Ohio Safety and Job Training

